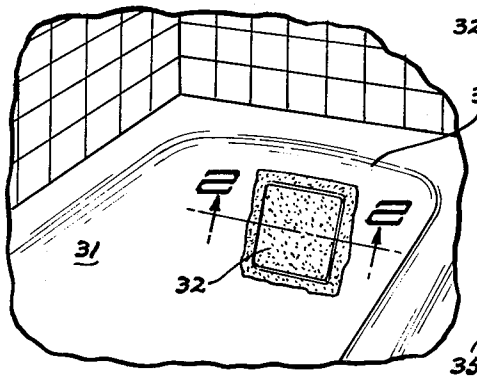
June 26, 1962 H. K. FJELSTAD 3,040,337

PORTABLE SCRUBBING DEVICE

Filed Aug. 19, 1959

FIG. 1



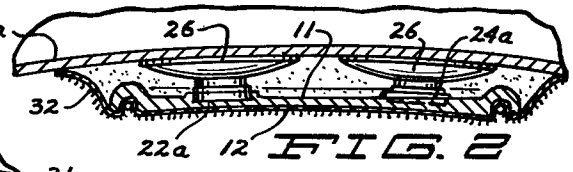


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

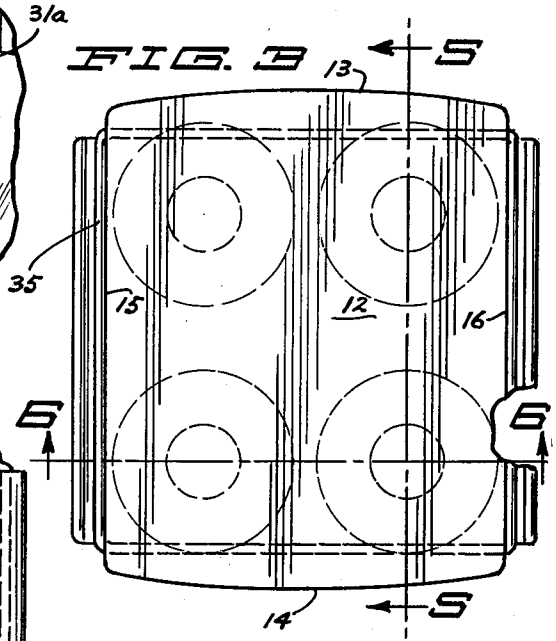


FIG. 4

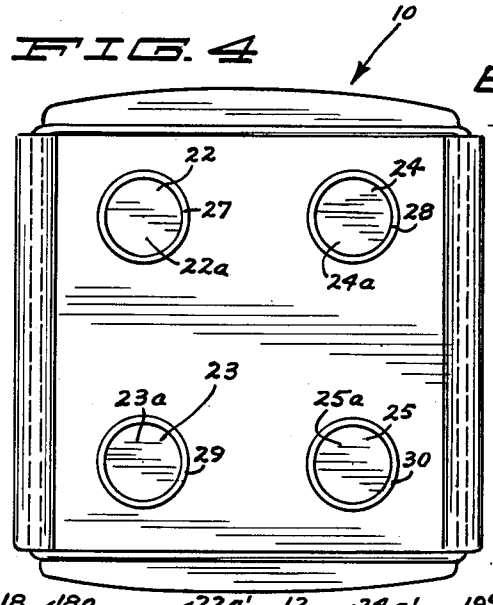
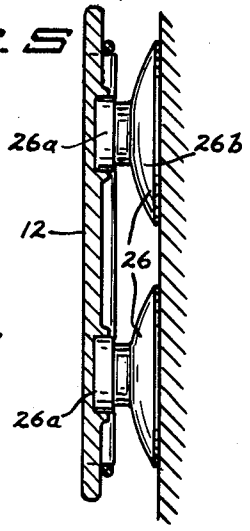


FIG. 5



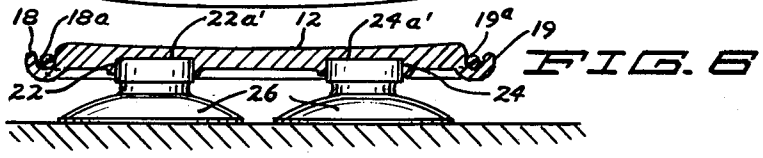


FIG. 6

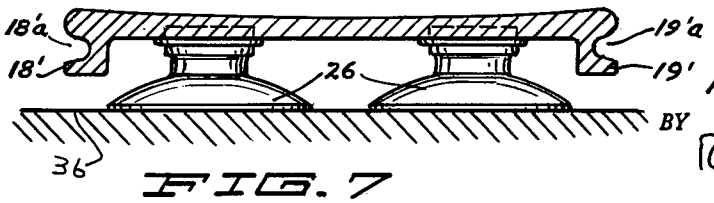


FIG. 7

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PORTABLE SCRUBBING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 4—184)

This invention relates to a back scrubbing device which is adaptable to be conveniently positioned either in a bathtub or on the wall of a shower stall as may be desired. There are areas in the back of a person which are difficult to reach such as between the shoulder blades or somewhat thereabove or therebelow. Said areas are somewhat difficult to reach even with the aid of a long handled bath brush.

It is desirable therefore to have some convenient means available for easily and thoroughly scrubbing the back of a person and particularly the portions indicated.

It is an object of this invention therefore to provide means which may be positioned as may be desired to be used for easily and conveniently scrubbing the back of a person.

It is another object of this invention to provide a plate member curved to conform comfortably to the back of a person adapted to have removably secured thereto means such as a wash cloth which may be well soaped against which the back of a person may be urged and moved about for the purpose of having said back scrubbed.

It is another object of this invention to provide a scrubbing device comprising a plate member having its outer surface curved to conform comfortably to the back of a person and having grooved portions extending outwardly at either side thereof somewhat shorter in length then the length of said member, a wash cloth adapted to overlie said member and resilient means disposed about the ends of said member and through said grooves to secure said wash cloth to said plate member and means for removably securing said plate member in a desirable position.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a back scrubbing device comprising a plate member adapted to have a wash cloth removably secured thereto, a plurality of spaced recessed portions in the under side of said plate member, suction holding members adapted to have their base portions secured in said recessed portions and being adapted to be removably secured to a surface in a desirable position.

With reference to the previous object, it is also an object of this invention to have the transversely spaced of said recessed portions have their bottoms inclined at angles whereby said suction members will be inclined to be adapted to be secured to the curved end portion of a bathtub.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a plate member having a depending flange portion at either side thereof having open grooves extending longitudinally therethrough in the outer faces of said flange portions, said flange portions being disposed in planes substantially at right angles to the plane of said plate member, a wash cloth adapted to overlie said plate member in said flange portions, an endless resilient member adapted to be disposed in said grooves about said plate member to removably hold said wash cloth in operating position and means for securing said plate member in a desirable position.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views and in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of applicant's device on a reduced scale showing the same in operating position;

FIG. 2 is a view in horizontal section taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1 as indicated by the arrows;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of applicant's device showing some portions thereof in dotted line;

FIG. 4 is a bottom plan view of the applicant's device;

FIG. 5 is a view in vertical section taken on line 5—5 of FIG. 3 as indicated by the arrows;

FIG. 6 is a view in vertical section taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 3 as indicated by the arrows; and

FIG. 7 is a view in vertical section similar to that of FIG. 6 showing a modification thereof.

Referring to the FIGS. 1–6, applicant's device is shown comprising a plate member **10**. While said plate member **10** may be variously formed, it is preferably formed as a plate member such as of a plastic material of small thickness having a concavely curved front surface. The curvature will be such as it will be comfortable for the back portion of a person to be pressed thereagainst. Said plate member **10** comprises a front or upper surface **12** and a lower surface **11** and has convexly curved end portions **13** and **14** and rectilinear sides **15** and **16**. Extending outwardly of said sides **15** and **16** respectively for substantial portions of the length thereof are flange portions **18** and **19**. Said flange portions are here shown to be contiguous with said sides **15** and **16** and being substantially semicircular in vertical cross section having formed therein longitudinally extending grooves **18***a* and **19***a*. Said flange portions **18** and **19** are shown to extend to points just short of the curved end portions of said plate member **10**.

Said plate member **10** may be adapted in various ways to be removably held in operating position. In the embodiment of the invention here disclosed, said plate member **10** is indicated as having formed in the bottom **11** thereof, spaced circular recessed portions **22**, **23**, **24** and **25**. The respective bottoms **22***a*, **23***a*, **24***a* and **25***a* of said recessed portions, as indicated in FIG. 2, are inclined slightly from the horizontal. Said bottom portions **22***a* and **24***a* are inclined upwardly transversely from the horizontal in the direction of their adjacent outer sides of said member **10**. The bottoms **23***a* and **25***a* are inclined upwardly transversely from the horizontal in the direction of their respective outer sides of said member **10** as indicated in FIG. 2.

Adapted to be respectively secured to said recessed portions **22—25** are holding members **26** here indicated as being in the form of suction cups having base portions **26***a* adapted to be disposed in said recessed portions **22—25** respectively and having upper cup shaped portions **26***b* adapted to be secured to a flat preferably non-porous surface in a manner well known. As indicated in FIG. 2 the cups **26** secured to said recessed portions **24** and **25** will be inclined sufficiently to very nicely mate with the curved end portions **31***a* of a bathtub **31**. Secured about the peripheries of said recessed portions **22—25** are flange members **27**, **28**, **29** and **30** to provide a bead like member adapted to be snug about the base portions **26***a* of said holding members **26** to seal the same in position and to prevent moisture from loosening the same.

There has been found that in forming said plate member **10** of a plastic material it is desirable to have said plate member **10** of as thin construction as possible and in order to have said recessed portions **22—25** of a sufficient depth it is more practical to form a bead like flange **27—30** about said portions.

Adapted to be disposed over said plate member **10** is a member **32** well adapted for scrubbing the back of a person and which is here indicated as being in the form of a wash cloth. Said wash cloth will be of sufficient size to overlie said plate member **10** completely having portions adapted to be folded over and underlie the ends of said plate member and to overlie said grooved portions **18***a* and **19***a* at either side of said plate member. An elastic endless member **35** is here provided disposed under the ends of said plate member **10** and through said grooves **18***a* and

19*a* in overlying said wash cloth 32 to hold the same in position. Applicant's device is shown in operating position in FIG. 1.

Applicant's device is also adapted to be secured to a flat wall surface such as the wall of a shower stall by having a slight modification in the bottom construction of said recesses 22—25 as indicated in FIG. 6. Herein said recessed portions 22 and 24 indicative of all of the recesses are indicated as having flat bottom surfaces 22'*a* and 24'*a* providing a slight modification of the construction shown in FIG. 2.

In operation, applicant's device may be conveniently positioned either in the end portion of a tub as indicated in FIG. 1 or on the wall surface of a shower stall and as here indicated will be removably secured in a desired position by means of said suction cups 26. The use of the device is quite obvious with the wash cloth well soaped placed over said plate member 10 and removably secured thereto by the holding member 35. The operator merely urges his back against applicant's device rubbing his back against the same to produce the desired result.

A slight modification of the applicant's device is shown in FIG. 7 secured to a flat wall surface 36 and wherein all parts are identical with the parts previously described and are indicated by the same characters with a modification being present in the construction of flange portions at either side thereof here indicated by the characters 18' and 19'. Said flanges 18' and 19' vary from said flanges 18 and 19 in being disposed in a depending position in relation to said plate 10 wherein the grooves 18'*a* and 19'*a* face in opposed directions just below the surface of said plate member 10.

Thus, it is seen that I have provided an efficient very simply constructed back scrubbing device which has been found to be of great convenience in use.

It will of course be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangements and proportions of the parts, without departing from the scope of applicant's invention which, generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth, in the parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable scrubbing device comprising a rigid plate member substantially rectangular in plan having a concave curvature in transverse section, a flange extending outwardly at either side of said plate member short of the full length thereof at either end thereof and being in a plane below an extension of the surface of said plate member, said flanges respectively having upwardly facing grooves extending longitudinally thereof, a scrubbing cloth overlying said plate member and said flanges, an endless elastic member placed over said scrubbing cloth and being disposed in said grooves and under either end of said plate member, and means carried by the rear side of said plate member removably securing the same to a wall surface.

2. The structure set forth in claim 1, said plate member having a plurality of recessed portions at the rear side thereof spaced transversely and longitudinally thereof, said transversely spaced recessed portions having their bottom surfaces divergingly inclined in the direction of the front side of said plate member and lying within the extension of a curvature to substantially mate the curvature of the foot end of a bathtub and suction cups having their base portions respectively secured in said recessed portions having mating engagement with said foot end portion of said bathtub.

3. A portable scrubbing device comprising a rigid plate member substantially rectangular in plan having a front concavely curved surface to mate the curvature of the back portion of a person, a flange portion at either side of said plate member and short of the full length of said plate member with respect to either end of said plate member, said flange portions respectively having longitudinal grooves within the outer sides thereof, a scrubbing cloth disposed over said plate member and said flanges, an endless elastic member disposed over said scrubbing cloth and within said grooves of said flange portions and under either end of said plate member, and means carried by the rear side of said plate member securing the same to a supporting surface.

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